

- Orange County Starting New Energy Task Force, Local Grant Program -

Goshen, NY – Standing with Orange County Executive Ed Diana and Orange County Planning Commissioner Dave Church today, U.S. Rep. John Hall (D-Dover) announce a \$3.5 million energy efficiency grant for Orange County provided by the Recovery Act that was passed last year. The \$3.5 million in federal funds will be distributed throughout Orange County to create jobs.

"This is money well spent," said Congressman Hall. "It will save the County money by identifying energy that is being wasted and improving the efficiency of buildings, lowering the overall energy bill for the County. That should translate directly into reduced property taxes. It is also good economic policy. Besides saving the County money and lowering taxes, we are also creating jobs for the people doing the retrofitting, for the manufacturers of energy efficient technologies, many of whom are right here in the Hudson Valley."

The \$3,516,700 for Orange County was included in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act passed last year. It is funded through the Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant Program, a program Congressman Hall helped create his first year in Congress in 2007.

\$200,000 of the grant will be used to conduct complete, full "performance" energy audits on up to ten Orange County owned buildings, including Valley View, that use the most energy. After the energy audits are done, \$2,717,399 in funds will be used for building retrofits to improve energy efficiency. This will be overseen by Orange County Department of Public Works with assistance from Honeywell via a Performance Contract under which Honeywell will be compensated only if and through actual, realized energy savings.

The County is using \$430,000 of the grant to create the Municipal Partners Financial Incentives Matching Grant Program to be administered by the County Planning Department. Grants will be available for municipalities, not-for-profits organizations, and school districts to provide funding for a range of possible projects including energy audits of facilities, training of staff and volunteers, development of strategies to conserve energy, and technical expertise to make energy improvements or to address financing.

"As Planning Commissioner I look forward to real projects demonstrating genuine energy savings – and I am particularly pleased that we will be able to sponsor matching funds to our local governments and non-profits to help position similar work there," said Orange County Planning Commissioner Dave Church.

"The County would like to thank Congressman Hall and his office for their assistance in helping us to obtain this funding. These funds will allow us to provide comprehensive energy efficiencies and conservation programs across our County infrastructure. Some of these programs will include updates to the Orange County Government Center, the Correctional Facility and Valley View," Orange County Executive Edward Diana said.